



# NEWSLETTER

BRUNSWICK COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
PO BOX 874, SHALLOTTE, NC 28459

VOLUME LVIII

AUGUST 2019

NUMBER 3

**Organized June 21, 1956**

## MISSION STATEMENT

To collect, preserve, study, evaluate and publicize the history of Brunswick County, NC. To devote meetings to presentation of materials about Brunswick County and the Lower Cape Fear through lectures, slides, and discussion. To publish a newsletter which contains news of the Society's activities, research papers and articles that pertain to genealogy.

## Society Officers For the 2019 & 2020 Term

President: James Green  
Vice-President: Gwen Causey  
Secretary: Roberta Brady  
Treasurer: Bob Armour  
Directors: James Robinson  
Jim Marlowe  
Dave Lewis

Newsletter Editor: Dave Lewis



## AUGUST MEETING TO BE HELD AT BEMC IN SUPPLY, NC AUGUST 12, 2019 7:30 P.M.

The next meeting of the *Brunswick County Historical Society* will be held on Monday, August 12th at the Brunswick Electric Membership Corporation Building, 795 Ocean Highway West, Supply, NC. The meeting begins at 7:30 P.M. We always meet the 2nd Monday in February, May, August and November.

The February 2019 issue of the *NEWSLETTER* began the 58th Volume. Volume I, Number 1 was printed September 1961. A complete set of the Newsletter from September 1961 to November 2018 can be found in the Wilson Library at UNC-Chapel Hill, NC and at the New Hanover County Public Library North Carolina Room in Wilmington, NC. There were no publications of Volume 17, #3 & 4 (1977) and Volume 18, #1 (1978).

## Program

Our speaker for the August meeting will be a member of our BCHS, Elwood Cheers. His topic will include a look at the early history of Shallotte and the surrounding area as seen thru his eyes. Elwood is a local historian and author of several books on the life in and around the Shallotte area.

## Dues

**DUES** are now *past due* unless you are a **Life Member**. The annual dues are \$15.00 for an active member or \$150.00 to become a Life Member. Checks may be mailed to the **BCHS** in care of Bob Armour or bring check or cash to the February meeting. Use the membership application found on page 7 for contact changes. Make checks payable to the **Brunswick County Historical Society**.

## Diary of James W. Albright

Continued from the May 2019 "Newsletter".

Albright was a Confederate Soldier from Greensboro, NC. His diary is part of the Southern Historical Collection #1008, Chapel Hill. Taken from "*Bent Gras, News from the Benton Family Tree*" publication, *provided by David and Judy Holden*.

James Albright was stationed at Fort Clifton, near Petersburg, Va. when he received orders to march to Wilmington on January 6, 1864. His diary tells us about the daily life and adventures of a Confederate Soldier who spent considerable time in the Brunswick and New Hanover County areas. It provides us with a rare glimpse into the area and how our ancestors lived during this time in history.

*Transcribed as written, including spelling and punctuation.*

Mar. 12, 1864 – Spent the evening with Misses Gilbert. The water is very high. Saw woodbine, jassamine, and peach trees in bloom – looks like spring.

Mar. 15 – Heard Gen Hanson had whipped the yanks near Suffolk and taken much valuable stuff from them.

Mar. 22 – Sent in third application for furlough.

Mar. 24 – Went oystering – only blockaders in sight.

Mar. 25 – Received a consoling letter from Miss Mattie. Had quite a blow – and old ocean roared fearfully to me – although 8 miles distant – would like to have been on the coast. A large bald eagle has been screaming around camp all day and I think from the company he is in he had degenerated with his country – the "U.S." As he is with a flock of buzzards around a dead horse – history says this noble bird will not feed on carrion – but appearances are against him.

Mar. 27 – Went to church with the Misses Gilbert – heard a good sermon; but a child in the gallery disturbed the meeting by an "unmentionable" youthful

indiscretion – which damage a young ladie's hat. I also saw two rascals cheat the preacher out of \$2 each by getting the usher to change \$10 for them – they got \$2 each – instead of giving – not paying a cent.

Mar. 28 – Dr. Thompson has gotten back – still unmarried.

Mar. 30 – Received furlough and was delighted at the thought of seeing all at home once more.

Mar. 31 – Went to coast and got some oysters to take home with me. One Yankee vessel in sight. Gregory's old horse "Arab," threw me over his head in the sand, and got away from me – and I had to walk 8 miles to cam – and lost my oysters and temper.

Apl. 1 – Wrote to Miss Mattie – told her I was going home. On reaching Wilmington found the steamer Advance was in. Soon met "Uncle Jack" (J.J. Ayres) our agent at Bermuda – and learn 39 cases our of our goods were aboard. Took tea on board the Advance, and Ayers and myself left at 10 pm on train for Greensboro. Couldn't get transportation – so had to pay my fare.

Apl. 3 – Got home 12:30 pm. Found all well except ma she is quite sick. She is confined to her bed and a long time much elapse, I fear, before she will be up again. "Home again!" Oh how much of joy and sadness in that word home! Much of happiness have I seen here in this old house – here too I felt my first real sorrow.

Apl. 17 – Saw Mrs. Wharton and learned Maj Boggs with Webb's battery. Cousin Danil and George spent day with me. Lt. Lane from Hendersonville was killed at the depot. Spent night at home of Ma and Pa – bade all good by at 9 pm, went to the depot with sadder heart than ever before, because of leaving Ma so sick – feeling I should never see her again, perhaps.

### *On the Road*

Apl. 18 – Had a nice ride to Goldsboro – detained 4 hours. Soldiers on train came nearly having a row with Provost Guard. Got to Wilmington about mid-

night and put up at Palmetto House and enjoyed a good sleep.

Apl. 19 – Found some of Webb’s men – got baggage in their wagons and started on foot – disagreeable walk, as it rained all the time. Met all the boys of our company – who gave me a cordial reception and a good dinner of stewed fish – which I enjoyed very much. All well – but found Capt. Gregory gone and Barksdale appointed Sgt. Major. Bad swamp swap, I fear.

Apl. 20 – The camp is very pleasant place 14 miles from Wilmington on the east side of the Cape Fear –  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile from the river, and  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile from the ocean. The breeze is fresh and strong from the sea-trees nearly half clad with leaves – all nature seems fairly alive down here. Took a stroll on the beach and watched old ocean roll. The two heavy guns at “Gatling Battery” were firing at some wrecks on the beach. The shots were good. The Yankees fired some 10 or 12 shot at something higher up the beach – no damage done.

Alp. 21 – No name for camp yet – but I shall head my notes “Confederate Point” that being the name of the peninsular-formed by the river and the ocean. (This spot was where “Carolina Beach” a summer resort now stands.) Went to a fishery on the river – and saw them hauling a sein-hard work, but good pay. The principal catch is hickory shad, mullets, cats, flounders, hog and gars – with some small sturgeon. The night was one of great confusion, but I did not get up though I could not sleep. The Yankees landed about 8 miles above and destroyed the State salt works, near Masonboro – capturing about 50 men – not soldiers. We ought to have had some troops nearer.

Apl. 22 – Went fishing with hook in the river – no bite. Visited the wrecks of the Venus and Rebe – two fine blockade runners – which are beached near here. Took a bath in the salt water and was washed off the deck and came near drowned. Shall not bathe in a vessel again – but take the open sea. The fight at Plymouth, N.C., was a fine victory for us. If God would only give us a victory over Grant peace would soon dawn upon our cause.

Apl. 23 – Had a fine breakfast of fish – a present

from Deans, L.W. McMullen and others. 8 block-aders are off Fort Fisher, and an attack is expected – so a large force went down and lined the beach until daylight. No Yanks came near – but two nights before some landed and did some meanness. A very nice little yatch was found on the beach – supposed left there to aid Negroes to run off.

Apl. 24 – Capt. Gregory came down and spent the night with us. Webb’s battery was ordered up to Masonboro, as it was reported the Yankees had landed a force there.

Apl. 25 – Went seining in Cape Fear. Boat swamped and Jess, Johnson, and myself got a ducking in the river. Johnson could not swim and was very much frightened. He clung to the boat and I got it ashore – Jess Warton saved the sein – and Wyatt, who held the land line hauled him in. Caught a nice mess of fish – among them 3 sting-rays – the first I ever saw. A singular fish, looks like a leather-winged bat, but has a long tail with a sting on the end with which it can make a dangerous wound. Tore sein nearly into. Young’s battery has joined Webb’s here. Much firing below this evening – towards Fort Fisher.

Apl. 26 – Rode down to battery Anderson – a good sand battery – mounting one heavy rifle gun. Good letter from Miss Mattie. The mosquitoes are very troublesome – and if they grow worse as the weather gets warmer we can’t live here. Firing above on the coast this evening.

Apl. 27 – Firing below. The pickets reported Yankees landing six miles above. Our forces turned out but could not see them.

Apl. 28 – Saw three Yankee vessels pass. Are building quarters for the Major near the sound, where we will have a fine view of the sound and ocean also. No firing today which is unusual. Heard Neil Sterling was dead – very sorry for he was a good boy and the pride of his parents.

Apl. 29 – Rec’d letters from sister and Bob – saying Ma is rapidly sinking. If I could only be with her – it would be great satisfaction to her and me – but such is the lot of a soldier – our dearest loved ones may pine and die – while he is waiting the

pleasure of officials. It will be useless for me to ask for a furlough – for I have only just had one. Rec'd letter from Rannie W. Shaw sending \$6 for 3 subs. to the War. Two years in the army and some of my friends don't know it – such is glory – such is fame!

May 1 – Wrote a “blue” letter to Miss Mattie – for I dreamed Mother was dead, and oh, how it weighs on my heart.

May 2 – Moved our camp down to the sound – a lovely place in a grove of live oaks right on the sound and in full view of the ocean – not half mile distant. Fixed up well now. Rec'd letter from Bro. Bob, and oh how my heart was pained to hear. Mother was Dead! I had feared this and had schooled my heart to meet the shock yet we are never prepared for such news – to know that a mother I loved so devotedly was dead! And I not with her to receive her parting blessing – is hard, hard indeed! I have one consolation – now that she is gone from me forever – that she has often told me that I never gave her any trouble or care – that her wish was my law and pleasure. I have no mother now! What a sad thought. God's ways are inscrutable – but just – and I bow, as she first taught me to trust him – and humbly pray for his grace and guidance! While my aged father is kind and good to me – no one can fill a mother's place in my heart. They have lived so long together I know his heart is sad. May God bless him in my prayers!

*Thus ends this extraordinary look at the life of a Confederate soldier stationed in Brunswick County during the Civil War.*

## **Brunswick County and the Leonard Iron Works**

History is a web of interconnecting strands, linking people and places over time. An example of that linkage is Brunswick County and the ironworks of colonial Massachusetts and New Jersey. The industrial development of the north and land development of Brunswick Country is a story of the Leonard Family.

The first Leonard's of Brunswick County were

Henry Leonard and his wife Hannah, and his brother, Samuel and his wife Joan Williams, when they arrived with their children in the mid-1700's from Cape May, New Jersey. Henry's oldest daughter, Abigail, had married Benjamin Holden in 1746 while still in Cape May, and another daughter, Hannah, married Joseph Hewett in 1751 in Cape May shortly before they relocated to what was then New Hanover County. The Leonard's, Holden's, Hewett's and several other families after moving to the area between Lockwoods Folly River and the Shallotte River became the backbone of this area.

The family name of Leonard when originally adopted signified that those who were given that moniker had the character and disposition of a lion, that is, were lion-hearted, decidedly courageous, whole-souled, fearing nothing. Its exact derivation is from “leon”, a lion, and the Teutonic affixture, “ard”, indicating “of the nature” or disposition.

Before coming to the New World during the “Great Migration” of the mid-17<sup>th</sup> century, the Leonard families with their many various spellings were prominent ironmasters in Pontypool, Wales and afterwards in Baltimore, Ireland. It is well known that Herstmancaux, a village and civil parish of East Sussex, England, was the old home of the Leonards. On coming to America they established a long line of ironmasters of the Leonard name.

Henry Leonard, born about 1618 in England and his brother James, born two years later were recruited to come to America around 1643 where they engaged in the manufacture of iron in and around Massachusetts. They may have been recruited after learning their trade at Pontypool in Monmouthshire. Soon after their arrival the family, in fact an extended clan, established a reputation as the leading group of ironworkers in New England. A local saying was, “where you find ironworks, there you will find a Leonard.” Over time the Leonard's were known for two things, ironworking and troublemaking.

On November 19, 1643 at a town meeting in Braintree, Massachusetts, a grant was made to John Winthrop, Jr. for about three thousand acres of land “for the encouragement of an ironwork to be set up

in the area of the Monocot River,” styled the “Company of Undertakers for the Iron-Works.” This was said to be the earliest of the kind in the new country but an honor that has been disputed by Lynn, Massachusetts. They were allowed to export all surpluses to any parts of the world except to known enemies. Among the first expert workers was Henry Leonard, who assisted in making the first castings in America.

The next attempt to manufacture iron in the colony was made at Raynham in 1652 where the Leonard’s added the operations of the bloomery and the forge hammer. In 1656 Henry and James were recruited to start an iron works in Taunton, Mass. James remained there nearly twenty years, but Henry went back to Lynn for a short time. By 1668 Henry was at work at Rowley with his sons, Nathaniel, Thomas and Samuel, getting them fairly acquainted with the business. He then went to Canton, near Boston, to aid in starting an ironworks there, and after returning to assist his boys for awhile at Rowley, he then left them to carry out a further contract with the owners while he went to East Jersey in about 1674-75. Reports stated that iron ore was found in much greater quantity and of much better quality there.

He settled in the vicinity of Middletown and Shrewsbury where it is supposed he lived the remainder of his life while engaged in his favorite business of working with iron at the extensive mills of Lewis Morris. On April 11, 1676 Henry bought from the Indians a piece of property on Fall River, a branch of the Navesink, in Monmouth County. Henry’s children eventually followed him to New Jersey with the exception of Thomas who settled in Virginia. By a commission from Governor Philip Carteret, on February 4, 1678 Henry with his son, Samuel, and others was given exclusive authority to capture and kill whales off the coast of East New Jersey from Barnegat northward to Sandy Hook.

The last days of Henry Leonard, who may be considered the paternal ancestor of the Leonard’s in New Jersey and eventually Brunswick County, were lived in the midst of troublesome time, when the inhabitants of the province were without any recognized government, except the local magistrates of the several Townships. He died about

1695, leaving worthy successors in his sons to hand the name down to posterity.

The Leonard’s, particularly those on Henry’s side of the family in Essex County, Massachusetts, made it clear from the beginning that they were no Puritans. During the middle decades of the seventeenth century, some half-dozen males among the Essex County Leonard’s were accused at various times of armed robbery, rape, arson, assault, battery, lewdness, profanity and chronic drunkenness. The Leonard females, not to be outdone, were cited for fist fighting, indecent exposure, singing bawdy songs and contempt of authority. Sheer contrariness marked the Leonard’s style and for over thirty years they were arguably the most troublesome family in Essex County. High-spirited and contumacious they showed their contempt for Puritan sensibilities at every turn.

Yet despite their many violations of both law and religious sensibilities of their neighbors, the Leonard’s were not harried out of the land. Indeed, quite the opposite. The Leonard’s rose in the world. They took offices in government, militia and the church. In most cases they acquired more and more property and became “first families” of the towns to which their works carried them. The Essex Leonard’s eventually earned a measure of acceptance from their orthodox Puritan neighbors. Fortunately, by the time Henry’s family settled in New Jersey they had calmed down and became landowning citizens of good social position. They were close to the royal governor and even received appointments from the Crown.

The constancy with which the Leonard’s stuck to ironworking over successive generations was extraordinary. For over seven generations from the 1640’s until the 1780’s, the Leonard’s manned the furnaces and forges of New England’s increasingly dispersed ironworks industry. From the Hammer-smith works the Leonard’s spread out across Massachusetts, Plymouth, New Haven and New Jersey to set up furnaces and forges. The Leonard’s labored at, and in some cases built and owned, ironworks in Lynn, Topsfield, New Haven, Taunton and Rynam during this period leaving their stamp on units with such names as Hammersmith, Bromigum Forge, Two Mile River, Whittenton Forge,

Chartley Forge, King's Furnace and Brummagem Forge. Some of these enterprises were short-lived, but most lasted much longer with several remaining in possession of the Leonard's a hundred years or more.

Iron products hammered into shape at the furnaces and forges across colonial New England were not the only use of iron ore. There was a shortage of money in circulation that could be used for cash in early New England. A mint for coining silver money was established in Boston in 1652, but the amounts of coinage issued was small. Paper money wasn't issued in Massachusetts until 1690 but again in small amounts. There were no banks, and iron given its relative price stability, availability and desirability was used from the late 1600's through the 1700's as a store of value and a medium of exchange for business transactions and to pay wages and salaries, settle estates and erase debts. The record books of various Leonard's in the archives of the Old Colony Historical Society show the various accounts of bar iron held by members of the Taunton, Raynham and Middleborough communities with transfers between and among accounts as payments were made, credits established, loans were made and debts were settled.

**Origins of Brunswick County Branch of the Leonard's:** There are two main theories as to the origins of Henry and James Leonard. The one most frequently encountered is that they descended from Henry Lennard, 12<sup>th</sup> Lord Dacre. The second is that they descended from French ironworkers imported during the 1400's to bring the new iron making technology to England. It is reasonably certain that the father of Henry and James and their siblings was Thomas Leonard per Hannah Leonard Deane's genealogy trail and backed up by independent findings. There is only Hannah's word that Thomas' father was Henry.

A deposition made by Hannah Leonard Deane, a daughter of James to her grandnephew, Zephaniah Leonard, names her grandparents as Thomas Leonard and Lydia Elizabeth White and her great grandfather was Henry Leonard. Thomas was a skilled forgerman and probably trained some or all of his sons in that skill while in England. Thomas moved around in the application of his skill, but it

is not known if he spent time in Pontypool, Monmouthshire from where Henry and James reportedly left to come to America.

Shortly after his arrival in the new world, Henry married Mary Russell and they had the following children: Samuel, Nathaniel, Thomas, Henry, John, Sarah, and Mary. There was possibly another Henry born of this family as evidence points to the fact that two of their children, Henry and Mary, died young while in Massachusetts. At this point the Leonard family begins to become increasingly difficult to trace because of the continued use of the names Samuel, Nathaniel, Thomas, Henry, and John and James.

Henry's sons, Samuel, Nathaniel and Thomas followed in their father's footsteps working in the iron business, and all of Henry and Mary's children eventually relocated in New Jersey with the exception of Thomas who moved to Virginia where he married and settled. John is reported to have married Anna Allmey of Rhode Island and moved to North Carolina where his stay was said to be transient. Sarah married Job Throckmorton of Middletown, New Jersey on February 2, 1684. Toward the end of the seventeenth century Henry, Jr. moved to Cape May County in southern New Jersey and was one of the original thirty-five Whaler Yeoman families to settle that area.

Henry married Hannah M. Johnson on January 29, 1698 in Cape May County, New Jersey. Hannah was the widow of Joseph Holden and they were the grandparents of Benjamin Holden of Holden Beach, North Carolina. To further add to this story, Henry and Hannah were the grandparents of Hannah Leonard who married Joseph Hewett on March 26, 1751 in Cape May just before they sailed for North Carolina. It can be said that Hannah M. Johnson, the daughter of William Johnson and Elizabeth Tuthill, was born abt. 1669 and died abt. December 1728 in Cape May, was the matriarch of many Brunswick County local residences, and Henry Leonard and Joseph Holden share as the patriarch. Inter-marriage of the Whaler Yeoman families in Cape May preserved the homogeneity of their community through natural increase of population, and this was no exception for the Leonard, Holden and Hewett families as they migrated

south to New Hanover County, now Brunswick County.

After arriving in New Hanover County, Henry Leonard began acquiring hundreds of acres of land from Arthur Dobbs, the Royal Governor of North Carolina. Beginning September 27, 1756 he purchased 100 acres opposite Lockwood’s Folly Inlet joining the water... and the easternmost of three little hammocks. Also on this date he was granted 300 acres between Benjamin Holden and Mr. Quince, located between Bacon’s Inlet and Lockwoods Folly Inlet and joining a swamp and a branch of Stanley’s Creek. This can be found in Patient Book 15, Pages 157 and 177. Henry continued to purchase land up until just before his death in 1772. His brother, Samuel, receive 140 acres in Lockwood’s Folly from the Royal Governor on September 27, 1756.

Henry Leonard’s three sons had died before 1772 so in his will he leaves all his holdings to his wife Hannah, daughters, and grandsons, Job Holden, Henry and John Willetts, and Crawford Ludlam.

The spirit exhibited by many families such as the Leonard’s has driven some of the most profound human achievements in history, from the early ironworks to medical breakthroughs to artistic glories to engineering and technological marvels. American ingenuity has continually proven what the world thinks is possible. It was the guarantee of individual liberty that gave the pioneers the confi-

dence to set out into the unknown and that gave these immigrants the belief they could build something better.

**Sources:** *Hudson-Mohawk Genealogical and Family Memoirs: Leonard*, posted September 23, 2017 by D. Chane. *Living in Changing Times, James Leonard and the Puritan Ironworks*, taken from *Creating the Commonwealth* by Stephen Innes. *Taunton Iron Works* from Wikipedia. *History Runs Through Raynham*, by Scott Spittler, Taunton Daily Gazette posted August 12, 2007. *Leonard Genealogy*, Bradspport.com by Brad Leonard. *Spotswood, New Jersey History, The Leonards*, compiled by O. B. Leonard, Plainfield, N.J. *Henry Leonard Family in New Jersey*, The Monmouth Inquirer, Freehold, New Jersey, November 8, 1883. *The Will of Henry Leonard*, Brunswick County, NC Book A, Page 170-171. *Cape May County, New Jersey, The Making of an American Resort Community*. by Jeffery M. Dorwart.

### First Deed to Henry Leonard

Secretary of State, Book 1, Page 196

April 11, 1676, From Matapas, Tapatowwowupom and Shepetamock to Henry Leonard.

A piece of land “lying and being neere the fall river butted and bounded with the bounds of the perches (purchase?) of Shrewsbury land on the one side and so to Ye upper side of (Cont. on pg. 8)

### ***Membership Application ... Invite a Friend to Join Brunswick County Historical Society***

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

New: \_\_\_\_\_ or Renewal \_\_\_\_\_ Amount Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

Receive *Newsletter* by email: Y N

Annual Dues: Individual \$15 Life Membership \$150

Mail this form with your check to: P.O. Box 874, Shallotte, NC 28459

Please submit any articles or information for future newsletters to Dave Lewis.

Email: [davelewis@atmc.net](mailto:davelewis@atmc.net)

### CALENDER OF EVENTS

BCHS Meetings: February 14, 2019  
May 13, 2019  
August 12, 2019  
November 11, 2019

(Cont. from pg. 7) Comboses (sic) meadow and selofes the frame and so across to Ye fall river according to the bounds marked by the Indian and Randall Huet and so downe the fall river till you come to the gutter or ditch by the highway that paseth over the falls...”

Secretary of State (New Jersey)

Book 1, Page 196, March 15, 1679, deeded to Henry’s son Samuel.

Book 1, Page 196, March 16, 1679, deeded by Samuel to Col. Lewis Morris.

*Transcribed as written.*

BRUNSWICK COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
PO BOX 874  
SHALLOTTE, NC 28459

